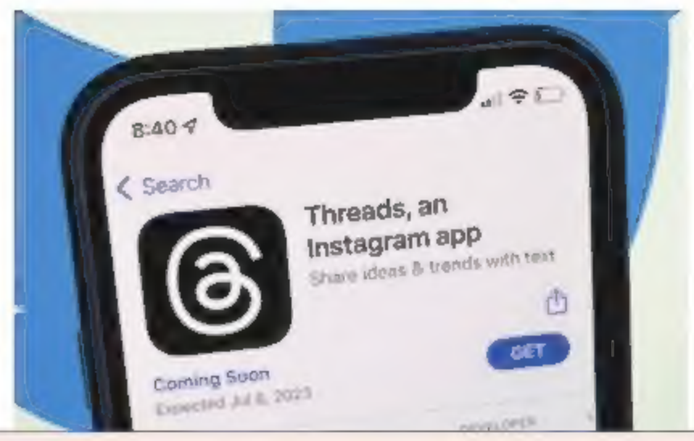
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • JULY 05, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

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**META TO LAUNCH 'THREADS' APP TO DIRECTLY CHALLENGE TWITTER**

**The Twitter-like app will be linked to Meta's photo-video sharing social networking service, Instagram, and is set to go live on Thursday**

**USERS CAN KEEP INSTA FOLLOWERS, USER ID**

Threads will allow users to retain followers from Instagram and keep the same username, a listing on Apple's App Store showed. 'Say more with Threads — Instagram's text-based conversation app', goes its teaser. "Threads is where communities come together to discuss everything from the topics you care about today to what'll be trending tomorrow," the description says

**DORSEY FLAGS PRIVACY CONCERNS**

- Former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted screenshots of the Threads app, showing how it will collect sensitive user data including health & fitness, purchases, contact details, browsing history, etc.
- Meta's move comes days after Musk faced widespread criticism for imposing daily limits on the number of posts Twitter users can see

**2.3 billion**

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSTAGRAM USERS AGAINST TWITTER'S 300 MILLION

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# Five guarantees: Siddu govt can mop up resources, say experts

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ALL eyes are on the state budget to be presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on July 7 as his government has to make additional allocation to implement its five guarantees.

The state government needs about Rs 59,000 crore per annum to implement the promised guarantees.

Siddaramaiah held a meeting with top finance officials, including LK Atheeq and Ekroop Kaur, here on Tuesday where issues related to mobilisation of funds were discussed threadbare.

Former Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) ISN Prasad said the team from the finance department is still working out ways to mobilise resources to implement the guarantees. The CM is expected to make a decision soon.

**BIG CONTRIBUTORS**

- Commercial tax, stamps and registration, excise, transport
- GST: State's collection growth put at 20%
- Entertainment tax can be hiked to 50-60%

Speaking about the guarantees and the burden on the government, renowned economist and former member of the 14th Finance Commission Prof Govinda Rao said, "The issue is not as serious as it is made out to be. There are two ways to deal with it. First, the GST system is buoyant and the government will be able to generate substantial revenues, and added to this, there is the source of tax devolution, which is also higher. The other way of dealing with the issue is that there is half percent borrowing space available. For example, the fiscal deficit now is 2.5% and there is a chance or opportunity to borrow up to 3%. So, this is an additional cushion.

Asked if these were the only two options, he said, "Another way of dealing with severe revenue crunches is to sell or lease state's assets. For example, Karnataka has assets such as Mayura hotels which could be leased. Some prime properties could also be sold to overcome the revenue deficit."

CONTINUED ON: P4

VIRTUAL SUMMIT

# SCO red card on using terror as state policy

Agrees to draw up unified list of barred terror outfits in grouping

**NARENDRA MODI,** PRIME MINISTER

**Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of their policies, provide shelter to terrorists. The SCO should not hesitate to criticise such nations**

**XI JINPING,** CHINESE PRESIDENT

**We should make foreign policies independently. We must be vigilant against external attempts to foment a new Cold War or camp-based confrontation in our region**

**VLADIMIR PUTIN,** RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

**The share of the Ruble in export transactions with all the SCO countries exceeded 40% in 2022... We are making wider use of national currencies for mutual settlements**

**SHEHBAZ SHARIF,** PAKISTAN PM

**The hydra-headed monster of terror must be fought with full vigour... Any temptation to use it as a cudgel for diplomatic point-scoring must be avoided**

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA'S imprint was apparent in a joint statement the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) issued on Tuesday after their virtual summit, as it said it was inadmissible for states to use terrorist and extremist groups for achieving their political and geopolitical objectives.

Describing terrorism as "criminal and unjustifiable", the SCO states also agreed to develop common principles and approaches to form a unified list of terrorist, separatist and extremist organisations whose activities are prohibited on the territories of the member nations of the grouping.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the tone for India's hardline on the matter earlier in the day, saying SCO nations must not hesitate to criticise countries supporting cross-border terrorism as an instrument of state policy. He added that there must not be any double standards in combating terror. While he did not mention Pakistan or China, the intent to call them out was clear.

With Iran on Tuesday becoming a full member of the SCO, Modi hoped it would improve connectivity within the grouping as its Chabahar port could be used for enhanced trading activity.

For his part, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the setting up of a SCO Development Bank and trade in local currencies. Quoting Rabindranath Tagore, he said, "The sea of danger, doubt and denial around man's little island of certainty challenges him to dare the unknown."

Russian President Vladimir Putin in his address said, "The Russian people are more consolidated than ever. The unity and high responsibility for the fate of the country was clearly demonstrated by the Russian political circles and the whole of society in uniting against the attempted armed rebellion."

He added that Russia's trade with SCO member states has increased by 37%, reaching a record high of $263 billion last year. From January to April this year, it went up by another 35%. The leaders signed the New Delhi Declaration and approved the SCO Economic Development Strategy to 2030, to promote regional integration, banking and finance, cooperation in energy, transport and digitisation.

P12

**India keeps the door shut on China's BRI project**

India again refused to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It's the only SCO country not to support the project. A declaration issued at the end of the summit on Tuesday said Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their support to the BRI project

# BJP appoints new chiefs for four states, six more on cards

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Tuesday kickstarted key organisational changes ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as it appointed new party chiefs in four states. Sources said the party will announce new presidents in six more party units, dropping hints that this will be followed by a Cabinet reshuffle.

Union minister G Kishan Reddy is the new BJP president in poll-bound Telangana, while D Purandeswari, Sunil Jakhar and Babulal Marandi will head party units in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Jharkhand, respectively. Reddy has also been made a member of the party's national executive committee.

According to sources, Reddy will quit as Union minister and incumbent BJP president in Telangana, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, will be inducted as a minister in the Cabinet reshuffle expected in the coming days.

Meanwhile, BJP sources said that the party will soon announce new presidents for five other states — Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh — and Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shobha Karandlaje or Aswath Narayan may be made the chief of the Karnataka unit, while V Muraleedharan could head Kerala. Mansukh Mandaviya or Parshottam Rupala could lead the party in Gujarat. In Haryana, it could be either Krishnapal Gujjar or Ram Vilas Sharma. Narendra Singh Tomar or Prahlad Patel may be appointed party chief in Madhya Pradesh. For Jammu and Kashmir, it could be either Jitendra Singh or Jugal Kishore Sharma, sources added.

# 'Appoint officer to probe sexual abuse of minor'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TAKING note of the shoddy probe by Koramangala police in a case of alleged sexual abuse of a four-year-old girl by her father, the Karnataka High Court directed the Bengaluru city police commissioner to appoint a new officer to conduct further investigation and submit a report within 10 weeks.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition by the girl's mother questioning the order of the special court which dismissed her application seeking its directions for further investigation. The petitioner pointed out some lacunae in the probe.

Koramangala police filed a chargesheet after investigating the complaint filed by the girl's mother against her husband.

The girl's mother filed the complaint on August 24, 2022. Her husband was arrested on September 23, 2022 and produced before the court. But the police never sought custodial interrogation of the accused despite serious allegations against him.

The police filed the chargesheet after three weeks. Later, the accused was enlarged on bail.

Referring to this, the court said these dates indicated that the investigation was conducted in a hurry only to file a chargesheet before the court. The investigating officer, right from the beginning as stated by the girl's mother, appeared to have been partisan towards the accused. Therefore, it would not be safe for this court to order further investigation by the same officer.

CONTINUED ON: P5

**VICTORY PARADE**

India won their 9th SAFF Cup at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday. India beat Kuwait 5-4 on penalties after it finished 1-1 | P15 | VINOD KUMAR T

# Kuki leader's house torched in Manipur

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

MISCREANTS on Monday night set ablaze the house of an insurgent leader in Manipur, a day after he had played a key role in the lifting of a blockade enforced on National Highway 2 — the state's lifeline.

The arson attack was on the house of Dr Seilen Haokip, spokesperson of the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), in the hill district of Churachandpur. The KNO is a bunch of extremist groups that signed a suspension of operation (SoO) pact with the government.

There was nobody in the house at the time of the incident. Haokip told this newspaper the attack was carried out by miscreants, not a mob. The attack came just hours after he issued a clarification on why he helped lift the blockade.

Elsewhere in the state, an abortive attempt to loot weapons from an India Reserve Battalion at Khangabok in Thoubal district was made on Tuesday. A mob had laid roadblocks to prevent movement of reinforcements. However, additional columns of Assam Rifles and Rapid Action Force came in brought the situation under control. One rioter was killed while a few others were injured in the attack.

EXPRESS READ

**No-fly zone in Bengaluru for G20**

Bengaluru: A temporary no-fly zone has been declared over Hotel Taj West End on Race Course Road for G20 Space Economy Leaders' Meeting on Saturday. Flying drones and UAVs within one-km radius from the venue has been prohibited from 9am to 2pm.

**Dhami meets PM, says UCC to be in force soon**

New Delhi: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, days after he announced that his state will soon implement the Uniform Civil Code. He, however, did not give a direct reply when asked if the UCC was discussed in the meeting | P9

Flames rise from a fire at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco | PTI

# Now, Khalistani radicals try to set on fire Indian mission in San Francisco

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

KHALISTANI miscreants tried to vandalise India's consulate in San Francisco by throwing a gasoline-soaked cloth ball that was set on fire. The arson attempt, the latest in the series of attacks against Indian missions in the US and Canada, drew strong condemnation from the US government.

"The US strongly condemns the reported vandalism and attempted arson against the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on Saturday. Vandalism or violence against diplomatic facilities or foreign diplomats in the US is a criminal offence," said US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller.

The radicals also targeted the Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and Consular General in San Francisco, T V N Prasad, by released their photos on posters threatening to avenge the killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The protesters are planning a march on July 8 called 'Khalistan Freedom Rally.'

Taking note of the rising instances of tarteged attacks on Indian consulates, especially in the US and Canada, the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday summoned the Canadian High Commissioner, Cameron MacKay. The MEA expressed concerns about the protests outside the Indian High Commission in Ottawa, as well as the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, scheduled on July 8.

# Congress, BJP clash in both Houses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Legislative Assembly and Council witnessed pandemonium on Tuesday as opposition BJP and ruling Congress members clashed over implementation of five guarantees. Both Houses were adjourned several times. BJP leaders also staged a protest against the government at Freedom Park in the city. Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa led the protest.

BJP members raised the issue of implementation of guarantees as soon as the Assembly session began and sought a discussion on it. Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai appealed to Speaker UT Khader to allow a debate on the issue under the Adjournment Motion. When his request was turned down, the BJP members rushed to the well of the House, raising slogans against the government.

While BJP accused the government of failing to implement the promised guarantees, Shivakumar said BJP could not tolerate the success of the guarantees that have been implemented. Siddaramiah said all questions raised by the opposition will be answered.

Meanwhile, addressing BJP workers at Freedom Park, Yediyurappa said that his party will continue its fight till all guarantees are implemented without any conditions.

MORE ON: P4

Former CM B S Yediyurappa leads a protest against the Congress government in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SIDDHADEVA GYEMPPA

XPLORE In today's redesigned back page, themed *Science*, **Xplore** the just detected very long gravitational waves warping the Milky Way, the Simply Scientifico weekly column and much more. —Editor

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